



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

The following is a brief history of how Scio Township came to own a historic farm, and an explanation of the plan for its future. Known as the Wild-Frey Farm, the farmhouse site is a relatively small piece of what was once a much larger farm dating back to the early 1800s. Before that, the

land was the territory of the Anishinaabeg – shared by the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations. The Frey and Wild families owned the land for almost 100 years, from the late 1800s to 1986. The property, consisting of a farmhouse, barn, and other assorted outbuildings on five acres at 7970 West Liberty Road, as well as about 50 acres of former agricultural land, came into the Township's possession in 2015.

The Township's intent was to turn the larger portion of the Wild-Frey property into a public park. Now known as the Liberty Pond Nature Area, this preserve sports a parking area and trailhead. Further improvements will occur under the leadership of Anna Cone, Director of Parks, Preserves, and Pathways, and the members of Scio's "PPP" Committee.

The Township's plan for a nature preserve did not include the farmhouse and out buildings. These structures didn't fit with the idea of a nature preserve and maintaining the buildings was a cost the Township did not want

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

to incur. The Township leased the buildings to a caretaker-tenant for a few years. However, by 2019 it was clear that the Township wasn't suited to act as a landlord.

An alternative was suggested by members of the Scio Land Preservation Commission. If the farmhouse site were designated as historic,

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then the property could be sold with that legal protection in place. In the summer of 2021, the Board of Trustees agreed to seek historic designation of the property from the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission and contracted with consultant Melissa Milton-Pung to research the farm and shepherd the property

through the process.

The official designation is expected to occur later this summer. Then the Board of Trustees will develop and approve criteria for a request for proposals (RFP), seeking prospective buyers of the newly designated historic farmhouse site. The new owner will be responsible for restoring and maintaining the farm in compliance with its

historic status, with oversight by the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. The goal is to find a good owner for the farm, someone who will act as a steward of this piece of Scio Township history. Those who are interested in the historic, Wild-Frey Farm bidding process should write to whathaway@sciotownship.org.



LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Scio Township voters will soon have the opportunity to approve the construction and staffing of a second fire station. **A second fire station was the recommendation of the Fire Services Guidance Committee**, a recommendation based on the growth of the Township's population, especially in the southeast quadrant of the Township, since the first fire station was built in 1986-87. Currently, the Scio Township Fire Department is funded by an annual assessment of up to 1.35 mills (\$1.35 per \$1,000 of taxable value) based on the predicted expenses of the Fire Department for the upcoming year. This level of funding does not, and has not ever, covered the entire cost of Fire Department operations. Then, last fall, a group of community members, business owners, and fire service experts who formed the Fire Services Guidance Committee determined that the population of Scio Township required a second fire station to adequately provide fire protection for the Township now and into the future.

So, we knew we would need to turn to voters to get their approval for a larger assessment.

That is why, this November 7, voters will be asked to cast a ballot on Fire Services Improvement and Expansion, a two-fold proposal comprised of an Operating Question and a Capital Question. The first question is to fund operations of the Fire Department and will go to pay ongoing personnel costs, replacement of equipment and fire trucks, and maintenance of fire stations—the everyday costs of operating

a fire department. Approval of this first question increases the cap on the annual fire assessment from 1.35 mills to *as much as* 3.75 mills, depending on the needs of the fire department for each upcoming year. That amount will be decided annually over the course of 10 years and will increase (up to 3.75 mills) if a second station is built and needs to be equipped and staffed.

Approval of the second question, the Capital Question, will authorize borrowing, and provide a mechanism for the Township to repay, a loan applied only to the capital costs of building and equipping a new fire station and purchasing property for fire stations. This special assessment request is for a small amount (0.75 mills or \$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value) over 20 years. The immediate effect of passing both parts of this ballot proposal will be to allow the Township to begin to construct and staff a second fire station on Township-owned property on Wagner Road just south of Liberty. We estimate that if voters approve a second fire station this fall, we will break ground in spring 2025 and be able to open the building in spring 2026, though it will take an estimated 8 years to fully staff a second station due to the difficulty of finding and training fire fighters.

How would this affect the average homeowner? Today the owner of a \$400,000 home pays \$270/year in taxes for fire services. If this ballot proposal is passed, that same homeowner would pay about \$320 for the tax year ending in 2024. This amounts to about \$26/month. Once a second fire station is built and fully staffed, under this ballot proposal the maximum amount that same

BY CHIEF ANDREW HOUE

homeowner could pay in taxes for fire services would be \$900/year, or about \$75/month.

It is important to understand that if both questions are not approved by voters, a second fire station will not be built. We must have voter approval to fund construction of a second fire station (the Capital Question) and voter approval to fund operating a second fire station (the Operating Question) in order to meet the current and projected future needs for fire protection in Scio Township identified by the Fire Services Guidance Committee. **Their recommendations would be enacted if both questions are approved by voters in November.**

More information about this proposal and the work of the Fire Services Guidance Committee can be found at SciOTownship.org/Fire. Look for more information on current and future needs of the Scio Township Fire Department in a special newsletter coming later this summer.



Point your camera phone at this QR code and click on the link that pops up to view the Township's web page with information on the Fire Services Improvement and Expansion ballot question. Or type SciOTownship.org/Fire in your browser.

CLERK'S COLUMN

BY JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK

ELECTIONS UPDATE

On occasion, I receive a panicked call from a Township resident who asks me to urgently cancel their voter registration. Some of these callers share with me the terrifying reason for their frantic request—fear for their kids' lives. It's heart wrenching. All I can do is assure these survivors of stalking or domestic violence that as soon as I cancel their voter registration, their residential addresses can no longer be found by anyone who accesses the public voter rolls. But then, they can't vote. They tell me they wish they could, but they can't "risk it."

No one should have to choose between their personal safety and exercising their right to vote. To help, the State of Michigan recently enacted legislation that created an Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) administered by the Attorney General's Office (michigan.gov/AG/initiatives/address-confidentiality). **The purpose of the ACP is to prevent the addresses of survivors of stalking, domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes from being located by their perpetrators through public records.** The ACP provides participants with a designated substitute address that can be used by any public agency instead of their real address. I encourage anyone in a similar

situation to sign up with the Attorney General's Office by sending an email to AG-ACP@michigan.gov. This program coordinates with the State Bureau of Elections to ensure that people registered in the ACP can safely receive all voting materials from their Township Clerk.

The next opportunity to exercise the right to vote arrives this November. **The Board of Trustees has called for a Special Election on November 7 to consider the Fire Services Improvement and Expansion question.** For all Scio voters looking ahead to November 7, please know that this fall you will have three options for casting your ballot: 1) in person on Election Day, at your regular precinct polling place; 2) via Absentee Ballot, which since 2018 is available to all voters for any reason; and 3) in person, for 9 Days prior to Election Day, here at Scio Township Hall, 827 North Zeeb Road. This is the first time Early Voting will be available in Michigan, as a consequence of the passage of Proposal 2 in November of 2022. While the State has yet to promulgate policies necessary to implement Prop 2, I am confident that we will be able to enact these reforms successfully. I am grateful that the Board of Trustees adopted an Elections budget sufficient to carry out these additional mandates.

As for the 8,228 of you who are on the Permanent Absent Voter List, please look for an Absent Voter Ballot Application in your mailbox early in September. At that time, you will be able to request a ballot for November 7, and you will have the option to request automatic absentee ballots (not just the applications) going forward. Streamlining the Absent Voter Application process is another way Prop 2 reforms have eased process and strengthened protections for voters.

As we gear up for the November 7 Special Election, I ask that you consider serving as an Election Inspector. We provide training, hourly pay, and a chance to directly participate in democracy. **Election Inspectors of all political parties have reported that the experience of working elections increased their confidence in our democratic process.** And it's fun! Our Election Inspectors report that between the hard work, long day, and sometimes-hecky/sometimes-slow flow of voters, they build friendships with each other through this important work. Any US Citizen who is 16 years old or older may apply to serve as Election Inspector. Find the application at ScioTownship.org/WorkElections.

Upcoming Elections

There will **NOT** be an election in Scio this August (though the City of Milan and Northfield Township will have elections).

A special election **HAS BEEN CALLED** in Scio for **November 7**.

3 Ways to Vote This November

1. In person on Election Day, at your regular precinct polling place
2. Via Absentee Ballot for 40 days prior to Election Day
3. In person, for 9 Days prior to Election Day, at Scio Township Hall

Michigan had the highest voter turnout rate in November 2022 among people aged 18-29 according to Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University. At 37%, Michigan's youth voter turnout was not only the highest in the nation, but exceeded its own previous best turnout rate of 2018, and far exceeded the national average of 23%. Automatic and same-day voter registration are credited with making the difference in Michigan and other states with the best turnout for this age group, policies that were enshrined in the Michigan Constitution in 2018.

WELCOME NEW FIRE MARSHAL, BRANDON SEARS!

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

This spring our Fire Department welcomed a new Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal in the person of Brandon Sears, a wonderfully experienced and talented individual who came forward with just the skill-set Scio was looking for. Brandon comes to us with 20 years' experience in the Saline Area Fire Department, where he rose through the ranks from firefighter to captain for a population of more than 23,000 spread over 90 square miles. (For comparison, Scio Township has a population of almost 18,000 in an area of about 32 square miles.) Brandon is a licensed EMT and CPR instructor and provided emergency medical services as well as leadership in the firefighters' union in Saline. He is married and the father of two sons and a daughter.

Since his start on April 1, Brandon has participated in major fire incidents in the Township, but his primary responsibility is as Fire Marshal. In 2021, Chief Andrew Houde convinced the Board of Trustees to revive the Township's fire inspection program, which had been dormant since the early 2000s. Since its revival, significant issues of code compliance have been identified in the community's businesses. I imagine it takes a lot of skill and tact to talk to business owners who have been "on their own" (so to speak) for 20 years and now are faced with code enforcement they may have never experienced before. On the contrary,



Brandon has found Scio business owners very receptive to the educational approach he takes to fire inspection. It helps, he explains, that the Fire Code is based on experience: "These codes were designed to prevent fires that have killed in the past," he told me. The most common violations he sees are failure to regularly test fire extinguishers and smoke alarms to ensure they are in working order.

For business owners up for inspection, Brandon likens the experience to going to the doctor after a long absence. It may generate a long list of areas for concern--your blood pressure is high, your sodium is low, and so forth--but the fixes don't happen overnight. Similarly, after inspection, business owners are presented with a list of code violations and a reinspection is scheduled for 4 to 6 weeks in the future. At that time, while all violations may not yet have been

cleared up, the expectation is that progress toward the goal of full compliance with the code will be apparent. If not, another inspection is scheduled and a fee assessed. But that is rare. "No one wants a fire," Brandon explains. "These business owners want to learn how to keep their property and employees safe."

Chief Houde is extremely satisfied with Brandon's approach to his role as Fire Marshal. "Brandon has come on board enthusiastically, building great relationships with staff and out in the field meeting with business owners," he stated. Brandon expects to have completed inspections on all Township commercial properties within 2-3 years. At which point he will begin making the rounds again. "It's safety first," he says, "for our firefighters and for our businesses."



Curious about the new solar array at the Fire Station? Does it really generate power, and if so, how much? And what does that mean in terms of carbon emissions saved? Find all that and more by pointing your camera phone at this QR code and opening the link that pops up. Your tax dollars at work.

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

BY DONNA E. PALMER, TREASURER

Summer is finally here and it is the beginning of the 2023 Tax Year. Property owners will be receiving their July tax bill soon. Please notice and read the payment information, especially the "date of payment" and the office hours. Township Hall offices are now open at 8 am and close at 4 pm. Check the name and address

listed on your tax bill, both the property address and the mailing address. It is important that we have correct records. Our extra mailing costs last year were just short of \$200 in additional postage. Help me reduce this as much as possible by ensuring we have the correct mailing address on your account. We expect to offer electronic funds transfer (EFT) as a means

of paying both tax and utilities bill without incurring fees in the near future.

As always, I appreciate all of you, especially your friendly smiles and courtesy to our staff.

Donna E. Palmer, Your treasurer

IT'S BEEN FUN MARC THOMPSON!

Marc Thompson began his brief tenure as Interim Manager in late December 2022 with two overarching goals: first, to be a calming influence and bring some stability to Township operations, and second, to lay the groundwork for the next occupant of the manager's chair. In concrete terms, this meant re-setting expectations for the role of manager and smoothing out and regularizing interactions between the Board of Trustees and the manager. **Residents who attend meetings of the Board of Trustees will likely have noticed the difference.** And internally, Marc established the norm of a weekly email to all elected officials. "I've done this every week of my entire career," he told me, insisting that it's a standard management tool to communicate, raise awareness, and keep projects moving.



During his interview with the Board back in December of 2022, he cited "resident satisfaction" as the number one job of a township manager. "That's why we're here," he elaborated during our interview. "Customer service is the fun part of the job," he continued. "The day when you've got to go out to someone's house to see the problem they've called Township Hall about, that's the part of the job I really enjoy!" he added.

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Marc is a lifelong Ohio native who has been impressed by the strong sense of community he has found among Scio residents. **"People like to live here, and I can see why," he now says.** He added that having such a highly educated population clearly invested in making this township a better place is an invaluable asset. Marc passed the baton to Joyce Parker (see article below) in June, an impressive candidate who coincidentally shares his alma mater of Kent State University. "I hope the community will be as welcoming and gracious to Joyce as it has been to me," he said, thanking staff, Board, and residents for their support.



WELCOME NEW TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOYCE PARKER!

The Board of Trustees welcomed Joyce Parker as our new Township Manager starting June 5, replacing Interim Manager Marc Thompson. Joyce is an award-winning government official with decades of experience leading cities and townships in Michigan and Illinois. Since 2002 she has been the president and CEO of the Municipal Group, a consulting firm offering a wide array of services to cities, townships, counties, and state governments. She comes to Scio, most recently, from work with the State Department of Treasury. She is also a former resident of Scio Township and currently continues to live in Washtenaw County.

Joyce has built her career working in much larger, but also in much smaller, organizations than the one here in the Township. When she heard about the opening here in Scio, **"I saw it as an opportunity to make a difference close to home," she says.** Joyce sees herself



as a manager and an administrator who is adaptable to the needs of the various work environments she has taken on. She notes that "conflict is everywhere in organizations," but by focusing on what works best for the Township she expects to find opportunities to build consensus for decision-making.

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Joyce has been hired with the understanding that during her first 90 days she will assess needs and report to the Board with a plan for moving forward. Understandably, she plans to spend that time "listening and learning" the organizational and community long-term needs as well as working on critical immediate needs. She remarked: "How government operates starts with finance, it's kind of a nuclear position. Therefore, **locating and hiring a Finance Director will be at the top of my priority list.**" She also stated in our conversation that audits were within her area in her time with the State Treasury Department and she will be able to reach out to the State to help Scio resolve some of its audit issues of recent years.

Welcome aboard Joyce! Your insight and expertise are a most welcome addition to our township governance.

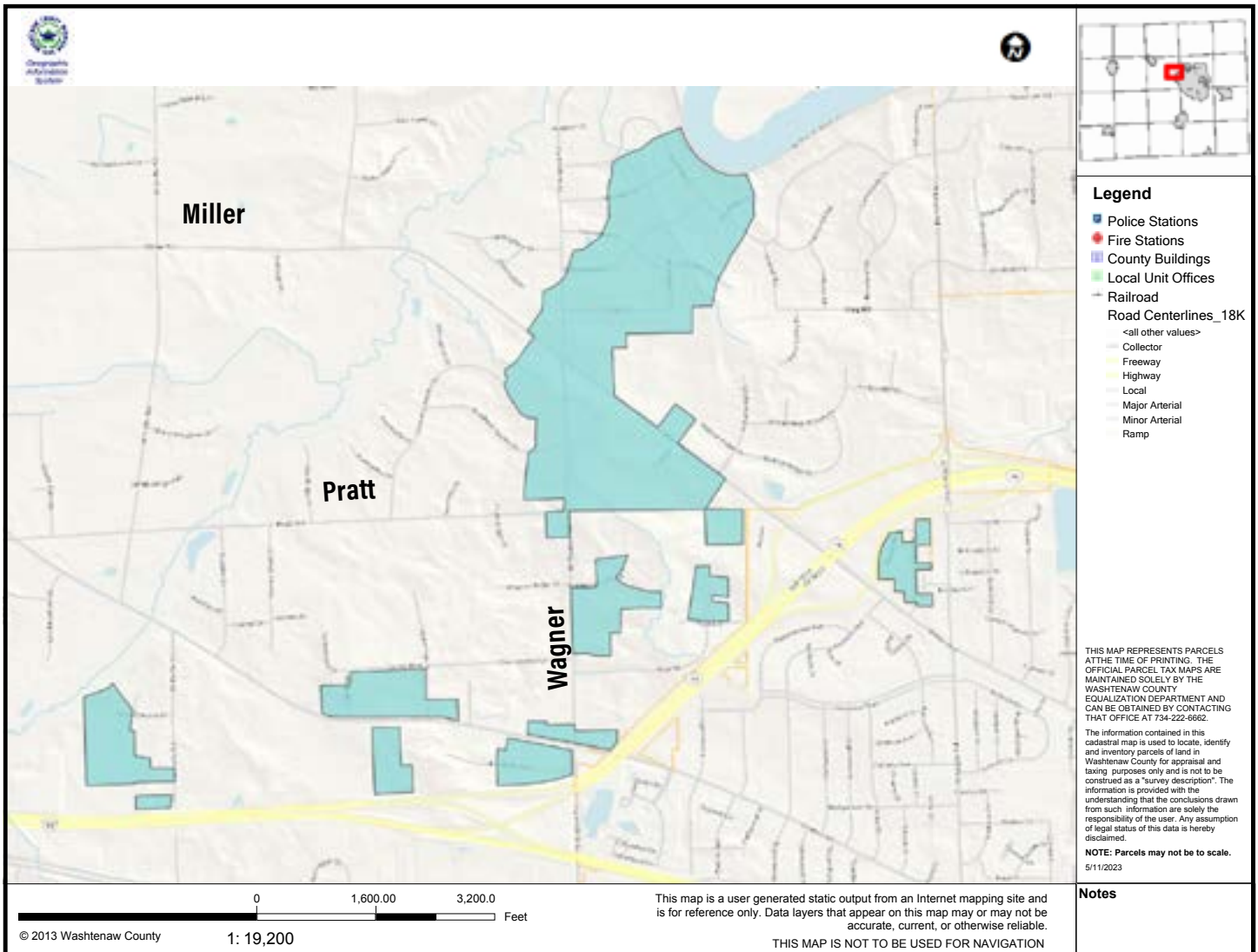
DIOXANE TESTING

EGLE and the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) conducted residential well testing for 1,4-dioxane during the week of June 5. The testing sites, which were chosen by EGLE and WCHD, were overwhelmingly within Scio Township (244 of 245 sites). All homeowners whose wells were tested were notified ahead of time. The map below shows areas north of I-94 that were tested as part of this recent, expanded testing.

New detections of 1,4-dioxane were discovered by Scio Township when 4 rounds of well testing were conducted in 2021 and 2022. A total of 122 private wells were tested during that time and 26 new low-level detections were found. EGLE and WCHD expanded their testing area as a result. The method used during this round of testing detects dioxane down to 0.5 ppb. The current Michigan drinking water standard for dioxane is

BY KATHLEEN KNOL, TRUSTEE

7.2 ppb. (Scio Township used Method 522, which has a detection limit of 0.12 ppb.) For more information contact Jennifer Conn, connj@washtenaw.org, 734-222-3855, or Trustee Kathleen Knol, kknol@sciotownship.org.



The maps above shows the areas north of I-94 that were included in this most recent round of testing. For more information contact Jennifer Conn, connj@washtenaw.org, 734-222-3855, or Trustee Kathleen Knol, kknol@sciotownship.org.

ROADS UPDATE

Here's a summary list of 2023 road projects done in partnership with the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC). The scope of the work ranges from crack-sealing to gravel uplifts and drainage improvements.

- Brook 'N Ridge Subdivision Daleview Drive
- E. Delhi Rd., Railroad tracks to Huron River Drive
- Park Rd., Cedar Ridge Drive to Zeeb Rd. (gravel uplift)
- Park Rd., end of pavement to Parkland Plaza
- Park Rd., Zeeb Rd. to end of pavement
- Peters Rd., Zeeb Rd. to Miller Rd.
- Polo Fields Subdivision
- Pratt Rd., end of pavement to Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd.
- Pratt Rd., end of pavement to Wagner Rd.

- Rose Drive, Wagner Rd. to end of Rd.
- Saginaw Greens East Subdivision
- Saginaw Greens North Subdivision
- Saginaw Hills Estates Subdivision
- Scio Hills Subdivision
- Scio Rd., Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd. to Zeeb Rd.
- Uplands of Scio-Ridge Subdivision
- Wagner Ridge Court, Wagner Rd. west to end of Rd.
- W. Delhi Rd., Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd. to I-94
- Downtown Development Authority District 2023 road projects:
 - Interface Drive, Jackson Industrial Drive to End of Rd.
 - Enterprise Drive, Jackson Rd. to End of Rd.
 - Jackson Industrial Drive, Jackson Rd. to End of Rd.
 - Newman Blvd, Baker Rd. to End of Rd.

One Township project that is not included in our agreements with the WCRC is the pedestrian safety improvements to the Scio Ridge and Uplands Drive area. The Township is awaiting contractor responses to a Request for Proposals for this work. Additionally, the Trailwoods subdivision will pave the gravel road portions of Staebler and Park Roads (up to the Cedar Ridge Drive intersection) this summer, though this project is not funded with Township money.

The WCRC will also be conducting dust control maintenance on the Township's dirt roads again this summer. Typically dust control occurs once a month for three months (June, July and August). Dust control is now paid for entirely with WCRC funds.



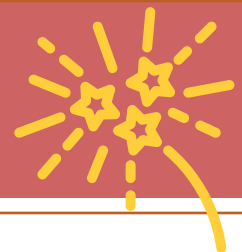
Keep up with doings at the Washtenaw County Road Commission by joining their chat room, open every Wednesday from noon to 1 pm, staffed by WCRC Board members and senior leaders.

FIREWORKS The Board of Trustees has approved 3 fireworks displays this summer:

- Loch Alpine, June 24
- Herron Farms, July 1 (private)
- Dexter Daze Festival, August 11

Consumer-grade fireworks are allowed by ordinance in Scio Township from 11 am to 11:45 pm on these upcoming dates:

- June 29 - July 4
- September 2 - 3 (Labor Day Weekend)



Aerial view of construction on the Border-to-Border Trail along Huron River Drive between Zeeb Road and N Delhi. The dry weather early this summer helped keep road construction projects moving along. Look for updates on this and other Washtenaw County Road Commission projects at wcroads.org.

ABOUT PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used globally during the past century in manufacturing, firefighting, and thousands of common household and other consumer products. These chemicals are persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don't break down and they can accumulate over time. In recent years, many have become concerned by the potential effects of high concentrations of PFAS on human health. Go to EGLE's Michigan PFAS Action Response Team's website at michigan.gov/PFASResponse to search their Geographic Information System for water sampling results in your area.

NEWS FROM THE PPP

BY ANNA CONE, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, PRESERVES, AND PATHWAYS

It's been a busy spring in the Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Department! We are pleased to introduce four summer staff: two Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Stewards and two Natural Resource Management Interns.

Ella Hook and Bria Sheffer, our Natural Resource Management Interns, will be conducting a breeding bird survey as well as an invasive species plant survey. Their research will build upon the breeding bird data collected in 2021 at the West Scio Preserve by previous interns. Conducting a second breeding bird survey will allow us to begin to see trends in bird populations at West Scio preserve. Ella and Bria will end their summer with us by presenting their research findings as well as a Scio Township Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Land Management Plan to the PPP Committee, which meets the second Wednesday of each month at 4 pm in Township Hall.

The Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Committee has had multiple meetings out-of-doors as part

of a special series in which committee members and community members can familiarize themselves with Scio Township-owned parks and preserves. If you are interested in attending the next special meeting in the series, send me an email: acone@sciotownship.org.

When you are out enjoying the trails this summer you might run into our Stewards, Sam Bandstra and Walker Whitehouse. They are skillfully conducting trail development and maintenance, invasive species management, and facilitating Scio Outside programs. Sam and Walker will spend this summer making our parks and preserves more safe, beautiful, and enjoyable.

The Parks and Pathways millage that residents passed in August of 2020 provides the funds to hire summer staff whose work will pay dividends to the community for years to come. Please welcome Parks summer staff into our community and say "hello" if you meet them while outside this summer!

To meet our summer staff and enjoy some time in the sunshine, attend Scio Outside programs

This summer we will be building birdhouses, surveying pond invertebrate life, wildflower identifying, and more! Grab some gloves and join our team as we help to preserve the natural beauty of our parks and preserves. To stay up to date with the latest volunteer opportunities and programs check out ScioTownship.org/ScioOutside



Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Summer Staff are having a great summer! (L to R) Sam Bandstra, Walker Whitehouse, Bria Sheffer, and Ella Hook

The **Huron River Water Trail** is a 104-mile inland paddling trail that extends from the rapids at Delhi and Dexter to the entrance to Lake Erie. For kayaking, canoeing, fishing on a fly, and other freshwater

pursuits, check in first at huronriverwatertrail.org to plan your trip, including up-to-date water and weather conditions.

SCIO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

What to Expect This Summer. Scio Township's Board of Trustees has recently approved the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (ESCAP), which will guide a just transition towards the township's goal of carbon neutrality and sustainability by 2035. The ESCAP was developed in collaboration with members of the Township's Environmental Sustainability Task Force (ESTF), Township leaders and key interest groups, and Scio residents. **The Plan includes broad strategies to adopt sustainable practices that will reduce the Township's carbon footprint, improve public health, and bolster economic vitality.** More specific actions will be developed as the ESTF implements the plan.

As recent graduates of the U-M School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) with a master's in science, we will work with the Task Force to aid Township residents and

stakeholders in engaging with and leading respective parts of the ESCAP. This summer, the ESTF will be working with Scio residents and businesses on sustainable projects such as home composting, public transit, and solar energy. A large part of our work will go towards creating educational materials and presentations for Scio Township leaders, staff, and residents, with the goal of laying out tangible actions that would allow individuals and organizations to engage with the ESCAP and its implementation. We will also develop an ongoing communication plan to inform Township staff and residents and allow for continued engagement and action related to the ESCAP. Finally, using our experience and connections from our master's project work here in Scio last summer, we will help plan an event to publicly launch the ESCAP in October that will bring residents and stakeholders together with the hope of inspiring future collaboration and generate excitement about this new Township initiative.

BY ZOEY SCANCARELLO AND
KYLE DWYER, SUSTAINABILITY INTERNS

The work done this summer in Scio will propel climate action forward while strengthening relations between Scio residents, businesses, and the Sustainability Task Force. More community members will be encouraged to get involved and stay informed. Implementing the Climate Action Plan will take a village—or a township—but **we believe Scio is up to the task.**

For more information on the Environmental Sustainability Task Force and the Climate Action Plan go to Sciotownship.org/Sustainability. The ESTF encourages any and all feedback. Please reach out to the ESTF chair Jan Culbertson (PCChair@sciotownship.org) with your comments.

7 "LEAVE NO TRACE" PRINCIPLES FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- Plan ahead and prepare—having to be rescued can be more than a huge waste of resources
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces—help protect the local ecosystem
- Dispose of waste properly—pack it in, pack it out; don't burn trash in campfires
- Leave what you find—take only photos instead of tangible souvenirs
- Minimize campfire impacts—carry in locally-purchased firewood, extinguish fire entirely with water
- Respect wildlife—do not pet, feed, or capture wild animals
- Be considerate of other visitors—you know what this means, you really do.

"Sustainability is based on a simple principle: everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations." -US EPA

GOOD FOR MICHIGAN

"These Goods Are Good for Michigan" is a collection of commercial partners who work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to raise awareness and financial support for state parks, trails, waterways, and other outdoor spaces through their products. Visit Goods4Mi.com to shop to support Michigan out-of-doors.

Scio resident and longtime member of the Township's Board of Review Mark Perry has been tapped by Governor Whitmer to join the Michigan Tax Tribunal, an administrative court that hears tax appeals for all Michigan taxes. Congratulations and best wishes Mark. Thank you for your many years of service to the taxpayers of Scio Township!

A LETTER FROM THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

On April 25, 2023 the Scio Township water system experienced a sudden pressure drop which caused the Utilities Department to issue a Boil Water Advisory. The pressure drop occurred due to the Water Tower being taken off-line for inspection work and an unexpected closing of the main system valve during this event. This was a very unusual set of circumstances and no foreign material entered the water supply system. As a precaution, Michigan EGLE

requires a Boil Water Advisory be issued until the results of 24-hour bacteriological testing are obtained. The State of Michigan, Washtenaw County Health Department, WEMU, MLIVE, social media outlets, and the Scio Township website were all utilized to notify the public of both the issuance and lifting of the Advisory. However, gaps have been identified in our notification procedures and Township staff are discussing methods to ensure that we reach the maximum number of residents if and when future events

BY STEVE WYZGOSKI,
UTILITIES DIRECTOR

occur. We apologize for any concerns or inconvenience that the pressure loss may have caused you and greatly appreciate the patience and understanding you exhibited during this unfortunate event.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT HOURS are 8 am – 4 pm, Monday – Friday. For walk-in Utilities business, the rear Township Hall entrance is accessible until noon; use the Main Entrance from noon to 4 pm.

SEEING RED

To help boost awareness of changing conditions at Great Lakes beaches and save lives, double red warning flags are now in place at state-designated swim beaches along the Great Lakes in Michigan state parks. If you see double red flags, **DO NOT** enter the water from the beach.

BE A FOOD HERO

Reducing food waste is the simplest action each of us can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help slow climate change. It also helps increase food security, preserves critical natural resources, and saves money. Search for **Tips to Reduce Food Waste** at [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov) to find practical ideas that can save the average family as much as \$1600 a year in reduced food bills.

CONSUMERS ALERT FOLLOWING SEVERE WEATHER

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel is warning Michigan residents to beware of scam artists and price-gougers who will try to take advantage of desperate home and vehicle owners following weather-related damage to property. If you're contacted by someone claiming to be with a utility company, remember that a public utility will never ask for additional payment to bring services back online after an outage. "Weather-related scams are more predictable than the weather," the Attorney General says. If you believe a business or individual is engaging in fraudulent behavior, or if you just want more information, contact the Consumer Protection team in the Michigan Attorney General's office, Toll free: 877-765-8388.

SUMMER GAS

Washtenaw County is one of eight counties in Southeast Michigan subject to ozone monitoring and the summer gasoline rules. "The summer formula gasoline increases fuel efficiency and helps smog-causing compounds from being released into the atmosphere," said Craig VanBuren, Laboratory Division Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. "MDARD inspectors will conduct on-site testing during the summer gas season, from June 1 to September 15." Anyone who suspects problems at the pump should call MDARD's 24-hour hotline for reporting complaints, 1-800-MDA-FUEL (1-800-632-3835).

YOUR LAWN CARE AFFECTS MICHIGAN'S WATERWAYS

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development advises the following for protecting our freshwater systems:

- When purchasing lawn care products, ensure the product is phosphorus free,
- Sweep excess fertilizer back onto the lawn or turf to be utilized rather than potentially running off into a storm drain.
- Keep leaves and lawn clippings out of your gutters, streets, and ditches.
- Never wash or blow soil or grass clippings into the street.
- Pick up pet waste, which can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients that cause excess algae and weed growth in lakes and rivers.
- Help control soil erosion by keeping bare soil covered with vegetation or mulch.

WELCOME OUR NEW IT DIRECTOR, CHRIS BAILEY!

Township staff welcomed a new Information Technology Director to Township Hall on May 8. Chris Bailey is a third-generation Ann Arborite who earned a bachelor's degree in what was then called "communications technology" from Eastern Michigan University and whose earliest employment was for those iconic local entities Borders Group and the University of Michigan. Chris spent the first part of his career in the IT department of a subsidiary of a large German automotive engineering services provider, where he rose to the level of Team Leader. There he had practice in such high-level activities as directing staff and conducting long-range planning and budgeting for IT, as well as the comparatively humble task of figuring out why the printer won't print at workstation #4. For the second part of his career, Chris has come



to Scio Township, where he will maintain the local network, conduct employee trainings, and implement new cyber security processes and procedures, as well as providing on-call support and support for virtual meetings as needed. We expect a noticeable improvement for staff,

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

committee members, and residents who attend meetings under his direction.

Chris came to Scio Township to improve services to residents by modernizing the internal infrastructure and systems. "In the short time since I started with the Township, I've seen plenty of opportunities for improving functionality in the office through updated and consistent IT systems," says Chris. **"I'm looking forward to making a difference for Scio employees and residents."** Clerk Jessica Flintoft added, "The Township is fortunate to have Chris Bailey as our first full-time IT Director. The preservation and accessibility of public records is possible only with the skills and knowledge Chris brings to the table."

HELP THE BATS!

Some species of bats are in danger of going extinct due to white-nose fungus. While scientists strive to create a treatment, there are a few things ordinary folks can do to help bats:

Many bats roost in dead and dying trees so leave dead trees standing as long as they aren't posing a danger to human life or property.

Limit the use of chemical pesticides, which expose bats to a compounding threat.

Some bat species will use a bat box or artificial wooden roost (which can offer replacement shelter if you're trying to rid bats from your house or barn).

(Source: Bridgemi.com).

GO SOLAR

Since 2010, there has been an across-the-board reduction in the cost of installed solar energy photovoltaic systems: 64 percent reduction in the cost of residential, 69 percent reduction in the cost of commercial-rooftop, and 82 percent reduction in the cost of utility-scale solar energy photovoltaic systems, according to the National Renewable Energy Lab, part of the US Department of Energy.

The US EPA has confirmed that southeast Michigan has met all federal standards for the national health-based standard for ozone. Ground-level ozone, one of the most monitored pollutants in Michigan, has shown steady improvements in the greater Detroit area since the 1990s, culminating in the region now being designated as "in attainment" with the EPA's national ambient air quality standards. The attainment designation reflects cleaner air for the entire region. Factors driving ozone levels down include more protective vehicle emissions standards, better pollution control technology in industrial and commercial facilities, and the closure of coal plants, among others. "Our work is not done," says acting director Aaron Keatley of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. "EGLE is committed to expanding our ozone success in similar ways to further reduce sulfur dioxide emissions, particulate emissions, and air toxics."





Scio Township Hall
827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

To Scio Neighbor

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

TOWNSHIP HALL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 369-9400
Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am – 4 pm

info@sciotownship.org
clerk@sciotownship.org
newsletter@sciotownship.org
website: sciotownship.org

OFFICERS

Will Hathaway, Supervisor—
whathaway@sciotownship.org

Jessica Flintoft, Clerk—
jflintoft@sciotownship.org

Donna E. Palmer, Treasurer—
depalmer@sciotownship.org

Mark Brazeau, Trustee —
mbrazeau@sciotownship.org

Jillian Kerry, Trustee —
jkerry@sciotownship.org

Kathleen Knol, Trustee—
kknol@sciotownship.org

John Reiser, Trustee —
jreiser@sciotownship.org

TownshipBoard@sciotownship.org

SENIOR STAFF

Joyce Parker, Manager –
jparker@sciotownship.org

Andrew Houde, Fire Chief –
ahoude@sciotownship.org

Steve Wyzgoski, Utilities Director—
swyzgoski@sciotownship.org

Andrea Garrett, Assessor —
algarrett@sciotownship.org

Rebecca Maute, Finance Manager –
rmaute@sciotownship.org

Kristy Aiken, Office Coordinator –
kaiken@sciotownship.org

UTILITIES

In Scio:
8 am – 4 pm(734) 369-9350
After hours (734) 651-4770
In Dexter:.....(734) 426-4572
(with after-hours automated triage)

In Loch Alpine:
Water or sewer emergencies. (248) 433-8904
Non-emergencies(517) 715-9739
Account Management/Billing
(office hours M-F, 5-8 p.m)(734) 433-0835

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1055 North Zeeb Road
For emergencies911
Business line(734) 665-6001
Fire@sciotownship.org

WASHTENAW COUNTY

County Water Resources
Commissioner(734) 222-6860
drains@ewashtenaw.org

County Road Commission(734) 761-1500
wcr@wcroads.org

County Commissioners

District 1 – Jason Maciejewski
maciejewskij@washtenaw.org

District 9 – Katie Scott
scottk@washtenaw.org

County Sheriff Scio Station

For emergencies 911
Business line(734) 994-2911

STATE OF MICHIGAN

State Representative

District 47 – Carrie Rheingans (855) 627-5052
carrierheingans@house.mi.gov

District 33 – Felicia Brabec (517) 373-2420
feliciabrabec@house.mi.gov

District 48 – Jennifer Conlin.....(517) 373-7557
JenniferConlin@house.mi.gov

State Senator

District 14 – Sue Shink (517) 373-2426
SenSSHink@senate.michigan.gov

Governor

Gretchen Whitmer (517) 373-3400
gwhitmer@michigan.gov

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. Representative

District 6 – Debbie Dingell (202) 225-4071
debbiedingell.house.gov

U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow(202) 224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov

Gary Peters (202) 224-6221
peters.senate.gov

President of the United States

Joe Biden(202) 456-1111
whitehouse.gov

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